



GO GREEN! BUSINESS NEWSLETTER

Spring Cleaning and Greening Your Business

This March, forget the conventional cleaning methods. Refresh your business in the earth-friendliest of ways!

1) More and more 'green' cleaning products are on the market, benefitting both the air quality of your business and *and* your physical health. Vinegar and baking soda

can also be used to clean almost anything. Mix in a little warm water with either of these and you've got yourself an all-purpose cleaner.

2) Instead of using harsh chemicals to eliminate carpet odors, sprinkle some baking soda over desired area, let sit, and then vacuum it up later! It's a perfectly-green way to keep your business smelling fresh.

3) Avoid conventional dry cleaners, as they emit large amounts of the industrial solvent perc. The two most common green dry cleaning methods are carbon dioxide cleaning and Green Earth. Seek out cleaners that use green methods.

For more earth-friendly ways to clean this spring, visit <http://planetgreen.discovery.com/go-green/green-cleaning/green-cleaning-top-tips.html>



March 2010

Free Energy Assessments For All Businesses

The Go Green! Initiative is excited to announce that all businesses (not just restaurants and hotels) are now welcome to apply for a free energy assessment of their facilities. The assessment will help your business understand how to lessen its environmental impact and also achieve energy cost savings.

Participating businesses will also receive a \$300 gift certificate to buy energy-efficient products.

Businesses can apply for the energy assessment (or receive more information) by contacting the Go Green! Office at 517-483-4597.



10 Things Your Business Can Always Buy Green!



Paint Look for low, or no, VOC paint.



Paper Look for paper with high post-consumer recycled content.



Batteries Look for rechargeable batteries and battery chargers.



Energy Look for installing solar units or keeping the thermostat cooler whenever possible



Light bulbs Look for compact fluorescents to replace incandescent

Look for local, in-season produce

Produce



Look for free trade clothing for uniforms

Clothes



Look for products with Energy-Star Label

Appliances



Look for Fair Trade Organic Coffee for your break room refresher

Coffee



Look for low-flow faucets for bathroom and kitchen use

Faucets



To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#).

Questions or comments? E-mail us at gogreen@lansingmi.gov or call 517-483-4597.



BUSINESS PROFILE: *Dream Dinners Frandor*

The Go Green! Initiative would like to congratulate Dream Dinners of Frandor, the newest area business to take the Go Green! Pledge.

Caitlin Hickey of Dream Dinners has utilized MSU's recycling program, recycling everything from paper and aluminum to glass and plastics. Dream Dinners also recently installed an automatic thermostat

which minimizes heat energy loss in their facility.

Hickey says she has always been an environmentalist. Raised in a family with an environmental engineer, she hates seeing things go to waste!

Does your business deserve to be profiled on our monthly newsletter? Contact the Go Green! Office at 517-483-4597.

Lansing's Green Infrastructure

A meeting for Lansing's Green Infrastructure Master Plan has been scheduled for Thursday, March 4th from 6:30-8:30pm at Foster Community Center. The plan will develop ideas to redesign Lansing's infrastructure for a greener, more efficient future. If your business would like to be a part of Lansing's Green Infrastructure Master Plan or you'd like more information about the project, visit http://www.lansingmi.gov/pnd/planning/design_lansing.jsp.

DNRE To Host Environmental Trainings

The Department of Natural Resources and Environment will be hosting five training workshops on its environmental education curriculum program entitled the Michigan Environmental Education Curriculum Support (MEECS). The workshops will be held on Thursday, March 4, from 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. at the Lansing Center on Michigan Avenue. The workshops are co-sponsored by the United States Postal Service.

The program is designed to teach the importance of appreciating our environment and natural resources within the classroom.

Teachers and non-formal educators are encouraged to register for the low-cost workshop trainings. Classroom instruction, as well as curriculum materials, will be provided for each trainee.

Registration can be done online at www.michigan.gov/deqworkshops and click on "Upcoming Workshops." The registration cost to attend a unit workshop is \$35.



"Hot Dog" by Thomas Sheerin (2009)

Show Off Your Art

The Greater Lansing Recycled Art Exhibit is going to be held March 25th-April 15th, 2010 at Lansing City Hall, located at 124 W. Michigan Ave. in downtown Lansing.

Artists who live and work in the greater Lansing region are eligible to submit artwork for consideration. Artists with winning entries will receive a \$300 prize for first place, \$200 for second place and \$100 for third place. Three honorable mentions will be awarded with gift certificates to downtown Lansing merchants.

Visit http://www.lansingmi.gov/Lansing/gogreen/Call_to_Artists_2010.pdf for more information!

